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## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Poor Armenia! It seems as if the whole Christian population of the country would be destroyed, and the missions entirely wrecked. It is estimated that 20,000 have been massacred in the brief period since the Sultan promised to make the reforms urged by the powers. The fanaticism of the Turks seems to have reached a state entirely beyond control, and the Armenians have grown desperate under their fiery trials. The missionaries are in great peril and fear and are calling loudly for protection. The loss to the American Board of its property at Harpoot is \$100,000. Minister Terrell, who has so bravely and devotedly looked after American interests in Turkey, has been instructed by Secretary Olney to demand of the Sultan's government satisfaction for the destruction of property. Another American warship has been sent to the Levant in addition to the two already there, but only for the protection of life and property. The Sultan has become so uneasy lest the powers seize and dismember Turkey that he has written an extraordinary letter to Lord Salisbury in which he declares loudly that he will execute reforms, and asks Salisbury to make another speech to counteract the effect of a previous one.

Meantime the powers, though they have sent considerable war fleets to the Levant, seem incapable on account of their mutual jealousies of doing anything but make threatening speeches and watch one another. There is no likelihood that they will proceed to dismember Turkey, nor would it be of any benefit, probably, if they should. Armenia would be little if any better off in the hands of Russia than it is in those of Turkey. There is one thing that clearly ought to be done and that might easily be done. Armenia should without delay be proclaimed a free and independent nation and its neutrality declared by the European nations. Turkey has no more rights in the land. The Armenian people are longing for civil and religious liberty which they can never have under the Turks. If the country were made free and independent, placed under proper governorship and kept free from interference, this would not only be an infinite boon to the Armenians themselves, but would do more than anything else to bring Turkey to her senses and solve the whole Eastern question.

The despatches from South America state that the Brazilian government has definitely concluded that no arbitration is admissible with respect to the ownership of the island of Trinidad, as proposed by the British government. The government also refuses to consider such suggestions as may arise through discussion of the question in the British Parliament. The stony little island is likely to furnish material for an extended diplomatic correspondence.

The New York Chamber of Commerce at its regular

monthly meeting, November 7, on recommendation of the committee on foreign commerce and the revenue laws, entered on its minutes a protest against the now prevalent jingoism of the country. The Committee on foreign commerce consisted of Mr. F. B. Thurber, Mr. James McCreery and Mr. G. H. Schwab. Their protest was made "in view of recent warlike utterances by men prominent in public life, and the pendency of international questions affecting commerce." This action of the Chamber of Commerce of the greatest commercial city of the nation, one of the greatest, too, of the world, has been taken none too early. It ought to be followed by like action on the part of every Chamber of Commerce in the country. A foreign war at the present time, with the danger and unsettlement that it would bring to our vast, world-wide commerce would wreck fortunes and paralyze trade to an extent never before heard of in the history of the world. Any man, in political life or out of it, who can think with lightness of such an appalling disaster and merrily urge the country on to armed conflict with any foreign power, would not be sufficiently punished for his wicked folly by being given a life-cell in a mad-house.

There are people wishing military instruction given in our schools who yet claim that they have no wish to inculcate the spirit of war, but Mr. Eugene F. Ware of Kansas is not one of them. He uncovers his "bloody shirt" so that everybody can see just what he is. Here is a paragraph from a speech of his on "patriotism" before the pupils of the High School of Topeka at a recent flag-raising in that city:

"I am one who believes in war as an educator, as a part of our public school system. We should have a war every generation to make the people patriotic. It is as necessary to teach the people patriotism as anything else. The late Civil War in its educational benefits was worth twice what it cost. Sooner or later the United States will have another war. I hope we will have it soon. We need it. There is an occasion this very day for a war and we ought to open it. In times of peace socialism and anarchy assail the flag. A dose of war cures these evils. There are those now here who will be in the next war. There are before me captains and colonels and to them will be confided the safety of this flag and the honor of this country. These young men are from a fighting race, and a fighting nation, and a fighting State, and will do themselves justice when the time arrives. And the young women who are present will see that they do, for women are always patriotic."

From this speech one would be led to think that the old days of Kansas border-ruffianism had returned. We hope, however, that the bad blood has all settled into the veins of this one man, and that there are no more like him. He certainly has enough of it in him for a whole State. If his speech is not all "bark," which we more than half suspect, we should think that he would consider it very "unpatriotic" to wait for the High School pupils to grow up into captains and colonels; that he would mount his

charger "at the first break of day" and be "off for the war" which "we ought to open;" that he would, other opportunities failing, solicit the support of the entire jingo element of the country for an appointment to some foreign post where he might draw his sword and kill a few people and "work up" a war for the benefit of the country.

In all soberness, the plague of such a man is infinitely worse for the great and growing State of Kansas than those of drought and grasshoppers combined, and we can easily understand why "many people of all parties" in the State have pronounced Mr. Ware's speech "the most unpatriotic one that has been heard in Kansas for a long time."

At its recent meeting at Brussels the Association for the Reform and Codification of the Law of Nations changed its name to the International Law Association. This is much simpler and can be easily remembered and spoken. The only organization with which it will be likely to be confounded is the Institute of International Law, which might very well be compounded with it, as the two have practically the same ends in view. The meeting just held at Brussels, the seventeenth Conference of the Association, was an interesting one. It was presided over by Sir Richard Webster and continued its sessions for four days. The principal subjects discussed were Arbitral Treaties, an International Court of Arbitration, the two features of the Brussels Anti-Slavery Convention relating to the Liquor Traffic and Domestic Slavery, Liability in cases of Collision at Sea, and the Execution of Foreign Judgments. A number of interesting papers were read, and a special Committee was appointed to report on the subject of an International Court next year. Several of the peace societies responded to the invitation extended to them and sent delegates to the Conference.

Dr. W. Evans Darby, Secretary of the London Peace Society, has spent the month of November in France, Germany, Holland and Switzerland, in endeavoring to secure the more earnest co-operation of the Continental churches in promoting the cause of international peace. He was sent by the Arbitration Alliance of the British Churches and by the Ecclesiastical Peace Conference whose headquarters are at Richmond, Va. We hope his mission may be attended with immediate practical results. The Churches of Christendom have never yet as a whole had any just conception of the power which they have of speedily bringing about the peace of the world. They are beginning to awaken to the greatness of their mission in this regard.

The London Peace Society this year inaugurated the plan of holding an Autumnal meeting in addition to its annual meeting held in the spring. Its first Autumnal

meeting was held at Birmingham on the 21st of October, and was attended by delegates from various parts of the Kingdom. Three sessions were held and all were well attended. Excellent reports of the meetings were given not only in the Midland dailies, but also in the *Times* and other London papers. Some of the Birmingham papers made the meetings all the more influential by ridiculing the Peace Society and its work.

The *Correspondance Autographiée* heretofore published semi-monthly by the International Peace Bureau at Berne has been converted into *Correspondance Bi-mensuelle* and will hereafter be printed. The first number contains six pages and gives not only the doings of the Bureau but some of the salient points in the peace movement at the present moment. The *Correspondance Bi-mensuelle* is sent gratuitously to the peace societies, peace papers and to persons who give special attention to the work of peace. We shall be glad to forward to the Bureau at Berne any sums of money which may be entrusted to us to aid in publishing this sheet and in the accomplishment of its other important work.

The following resolution presented by Mrs. Bailey, at the National W. C. T. U. Convention recently held at Baltimore was passed without a dissenting voice:

"*Resolved*, That the sacrifice of life by the cruelties of war is contrary to reason, an insult to a nineteenth century intelligence and a travesty upon Christianity; that arbitration recognizes an equality of peoples, encourages the growth of mutual interests, which may not be measured by commerce only, cultivates a true personal liberty and corrects a spurious patriotism based upon unjust arguments."

A similar resolution presented by Mrs. Bailey last year, though not so strong, provoked much discussion in the Convention and quite a large minority voted against it.

The Emperor of Japan, Nutsu Hito, has sent an autograph letter to President Cleveland thanking him and the government of the United States for the good offices exercised toward bringing about peace between China and Japan. Here is the body of the letter:

Great and Good Friend: During the war between our empire and that of China, which has now happily been brought to an end by the conclusion of a treaty of peace, the diplomatic and consular officers of the United States in China, with your excellency's gracious permission, and acting under your excellency's wise direction, extended their friendly offices to our subjects in China, and on many occasions afforded them succor and assistance.

Again, as the war was nearing its final stage, the representatives of the United States at Tokio and Peking, by your excellency's authorization, provided the way whereby China was able to approach directly our government on the subject of peace, and it was through the facilities afforded by those two representatives for direct reciprocal communication between the governments of Japan and China that all the preliminaries looking to the open-

ing of negotiations for the definite termination of hostilities were adjusted. The manner in which those delicate services in the interest of peace were performed left nothing to be desired.

And we take this opportunity to express to your excellency our high appreciation of those acts on the part of your excellency, as well as on the part of your excellency's officers, acting under your excellency's wise direction, which not only tended to mitigate the severities and hardships of the war and finally to promote the successful issue of the negotiations for peace, but served to draw still closer the bonds of friendship and good neighborhood which happily unite our two countries.

The kind of internationalism represented by the Valkyrie-Defender race at New York had better come to an end without any more exhibitions of itself. Sporting when carried to excess, as it always is when it becomes professional and frequently when it is not so, is uniformly attended by the iniquitous practices of betting and gambling, often by the participants and always by a large number of onlookers, and not infrequently results in quarrelling and hard feelings. Lord Dunraven has gone home mad and has been exhibiting his lordly gentlemanliness by charging his New York competitor with cheating. Mr. Iselin, in turn, is making an exhibition of his republican gentlemanliness by calling Dunraven a liar, intensifying the term with adjectives which would be out of place in a peace journal. We believe heartily in all sorts of healthy international association, but this kind is a disgrace to both Great Britain and the United States and can not fail to produce real estrangement among a considerable number of people on both sides of the water.

In an address on "Educational Work in Cincinnati" before the Unity Club of Cincinnati on November 13th, Professor Sproull of the University of that city spoke strongly in opposition to compulsory military training in the public schools. He said:

"If the effort be made, I hope there will be united and determined opposition to it. If boys wish to organize companies, let them do so, if the parents do not object; but it is in contravention with our age, our religion, our institutions and the progress of the times to make militarism a part of our school system.

"The friends of this movement are trying to revivify an institution that is in a moribund condition. Since we have physical training in our schools there is not a single argument in favor of the other. As a physical exercise all will acknowledge, except its blind advocates, that it is exceedingly limited in bringing muscles into play. Its tendency is not to give a dignified bearing with graceful carriage, but an unbending rigidity that has neither beauty nor comeliness. I should like to see the Greeks take the pose of a modern soldier as an example of gracefulness and ease. The gymnastic exercises are superior in every way. It would be a shame to spend the time and money necessary for this work which could be spent with far better advantage in connection with playgrounds. The effect of constant drilling and playing soldier will awaken in boys a military spirit. They will learn to love

its pomp and display, and grow up with a desire to put into practice their military knowledge. It will make future generations less desirous of avoiding war. We all know the effect of such stories upon children, and this feeling will be intensified and made more lasting, so that we shall see our young men who will help to form public opinion preferring warlike measures to those of peace. Have we money for this, and nothing with which to furnish books free to indigent pupils? Militarism is one of the banes of social life in Germany. It develops the most dangerous and distinct caste and produces an aristocracy more offensive than that of birth."

The opposition of which Professor Sproull speaks is growing with great rapidity. The free school book part of the movement furnishes a lever of tremendous power. A recent Cincinnati paper says:

"The attention of all organizations seems to be at the present time centred in the movement inaugurated short time ago by the Federal Labor Union looking to the introduction of free books and the abolition of military training in the public schools of the city, and this question has taken precedence over all others for the time being. With but a few exceptions every labor organization, and not a few kindred bodies, have indorsed the movement and interested their membership, and it at once promises to become one of the most important movements ever started in this city."

Mrs. Hannah J. Bailey, the efficient and indefatigable head of the Peace Department of the National and the World's W. C. T. U., and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Peace Society, has been in Brooklyn since the Convention at Baltimore. After spending some time at the Atlanta Exposition she expects to sail on the 22d of January to be abroad until next June visiting Palestine and various points in Europe. She hopes to study the subject of peace among the peace workers of the Old World and to find opportunity to do something for the advancement of the cause in different places. We commend her to the confidence and kindness of all the friends of peace across the water, and hope that she may have an interesting and profitable trip and a safe return.

It has been discovered that Henri Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross Society, now an old man, is living in great poverty, having spent his fortune in promoting the work which he originated. He has modestly kept himself from public notice, but his condition has been found out, and an effort is to be made by the Red Cross Societies to relieve his need. The Baroness von Suttner, in behalf of the Austrian Peace Society, makes an appeal to the friends of peace to aid in furnishing him relief, as he has been one of the true friends of peace. This appeal ought to be generously responded to.

The movement recently inaugurated in Cincinnati, alluded to in our last issue, to abolish and prevent military training in the schools of the city and for providing the pupils with free text-books has assumed encouraging pro-

portions. Many prominent clergymen of the city are giving it their hearty support. The last meeting of those interested in the movement was attended by representatives of thirty labor organizations, of the W. C. T. Unions, of several fraternities, and by many others. An organization was formed under the name of the Free School-Book and Anti-military Training Conference. The following memorial drafted by Mr. Weier, chairman of the committee of fifteen appointed at the previous meeting, was read and sent to the Union Board of High Schools:

To the honorable Union Board of High Schools, City:

Gentlemen—The Free School-Book and Anti-military Conference, as instituted by the labor and reform organizations of the city of Cincinnati, begs leave to submit the following:

The pupils of our high schools have in late years formed, under the guidance and leadership of some teachers, so-called cadet brigades, in outspoken military organizations, with officers, privates, uniforms, shoulder straps, guns and all other military accoutrements, and they drill every week in regular military form.

There is at present no law, nor rule, of either the Board of Education or the Union Board of High Schools, authorizing such a military organization and drill of pupils, and the same, being a private institution, is altogether out of the jurisdiction or supervision of your board.

The only instance that this aforesaid military organization was countenanced by any school authority was in the appropriation of the sum of \$500 for the purpose of purchasing guns for the pupils of the high schools. Such an appropriation being in toto illegal, uncalled for and not warranted by any law or rule of the Board of Education, it was charged to the account of physical apparatus. This might denote that the Board of Education intended to place military drill under the supervision of the Superintendent of Physical Culture, but such an order has never been passed, and the said Superintendent of Physical Culture has never had a voice in the matter of military drill.

Further, in view of the fact that the Superintendent of the Public Schools, Mr. W. H. Morgan, has, in his report to the Board of Education, advocated to make military drill a compulsory part of the regular curriculum of public instruction, and that the Superintendent has of late reiterated and emphasized his statements in the public press, and it being announced that this military drill should be placed under the supervision of a competent military instructor, namely, an officer of the regular army from Ft. Thomas, therefore

We hereby enter our serious and emphatic protest against all of these proceedings.

And we further request the honorable Union Board of High Schools to take measures to this effect:

1. That any and all branches of physical culture in the high schools must be conducted under the sole supervision of the Superintendent of Physical Culture, who has been engaged, and is paid, for this purpose, and that no other physical culture or drill be tolerated upon the grounds of the high schools.

2. That it be not tolerated that any pupil of the high schools address any other pupil in the capacity of a military officer, such as Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant, Cor-

poral or any other term; or that any pupil exact from another pupil obedience to commands or orders as such military officers, but that all pupils be placed upon the same plane and level of social equality, and that the only standard of superiority shall be found in intelligence, politeness, good morals and good general deportment.

3. While an uniform dress of the pupils of the high schools may be desirable and beneficial, it be not tolerated that any pupil exhibit in school any sign of superior rank, such as shoulder straps, epaulets, buttons, stripes on pants, coats or caps, or any other insignia of military office.

Our conference stands ready to defend and justify any and all of these measures before your honorable board or any committee, and bring the testimony of the best educational authorities in sustenance of the same.

We assure you, gentlemen, a compliance with these requests will gain you the appreciation of a multitude of the parents of our school children.

It is said that no Kansas Governor has ever signed a death warrant. Criminals sentenced to death are permitted to serve in the penitentiary for life, and are not hanged as the law contemplates. There are about 75 convicts in the Kansas penitentiary under sentence of death.

The new harbor-defence ram, Katahdin, had her (his?) official trial trip on the last day of October. She did not come up to the required speed of 17 knots an hour. She is a wicked little animal, notwithstanding, and we should prefer to keep entirely away from her.

There is little change in the situation in Cuba. Conflicting rumors have been afloat of attempts at pacification by General Campos and the Spanish authorities, but they are said to be without foundation. The dispatches state that on the 17th ult. a battle was fought between General Maceo and General Navarro near Santa Clara, lasting seventeen hours, in which the Spanish forces were defeated with a loss of 500 killed and wounded. Also that on the 19th ult. General Gomez defeated General Valdez in a battle in the Santa Clara district, the Spanish General Valdez being seriously wounded. A number of filibustering expeditions are said to have reached the Cuban shores in safety.

The first instalment of the Chinese war indemnity, \$40,000,000, has been paid to Japan. This sum was transferred from the account of China to that of Japan on the books of the bank of England in the presence of representatives of the two countries.

Mr. Rugghero Bonghi, at one time minister of public instruction in Italy, who presided at the Peace Congress held at Rome in November, 1891, recently died at Torredel-Greco at the age of 68.

Seven of the Swiss cantons have peace societies with a number of local branches. These cantonal societies have recently united in forming a General Swiss Peace Society.